



Colorado Crop Progress

NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA NASS Colorado Field Office
P.O. Box 150969, Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone 1-800-392-3202 · 1-800-643-6885
e-mail: nass-co@nass.usda.gov

To access USDA-NASS reports <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

Released: October 16, 2006

Vol. 43 No. 32

Agricultural Summary: Colorado experienced cool, damp conditions early in the week. Temperatures were reported below average with normal levels of precipitation across the state. October weather patterns allowed farmers 4 days in the field to continue fieldwork and other operations. The cool, cloudy days slowed harvest of several crops early in the week. Frost was again reported across the Northeastern Plains of Colorado. Subsoil moisture increased slightly as a result of the cool, cloudy days earlier in the week.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	6	24	67	3
Last Week	10	23	65	2
Last Year	16	28	47	9

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	18	36	45	1
Last Week	21	37	41	1
Last Year	11	33	52	4

Small Grains: Winter wheat producers are finishing up planting with 97 percent now seeded and 83 percent emerged by week's end. Winter wheat is currently rated in excellent to fair condition. Reporters are indicating the winter wheat seeding is progressing nicely in areas that have good moisture levels.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending October 15, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	2	3	27	35	33

Row Crops: The corn crop has reached 98 percent mature, with 22 percent harvested. The corn crop currently is rated in mostly good to fair condition. The sorghum crop reached 96 percent at or beyond the turning color stage, 60 percent mature, with 15 percent harvested by week's end. The crop is rated in mostly good to fair condition. Summer potatoes were 91 percent harvested

by week's end. Producers continued to harvest fall potatoes last week with 93 percent harvested by week's end. The dry onion crop reached 97 percent harvested by week's end. The sugarbeet harvest continues with 29 percent of the crop now harvested. Sugarbeets are rated in good to fair condition. Dry beans were 95 percent cut with 77 percent harvested by week's end. Sunflowers are rated in mostly good to fair condition with 45 percent of the crop now harvested.

ROW CROP CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending October 15, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	5	12	21	43	19
Sorghum	1	17	35	46	1

Hay: Producers continue to cut alfalfa with 97 percent of the third cutting and 43 percent of the fourth cutting harvested. The crop is currently rated in good to fair condition.

Pasture and Range: Overall, pasture and range feed conditions increased slightly thanks to fall moisture. Reports indicate that grasses are mature and turning color.

Livestock: Death losses for cattle and sheep were average for the week. Producers continue to feed supplements due to the lack of grazable range and pastures. Many producers continue to sell cattle do to shortages in winter feed and hay storage.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending October 15, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2006	13	24	38	23	2
Prev. Year - 2005	7	21	42	26	4
5-Year Avg.	17	21	38	22	2

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending October 15, 2006

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Winter Wheat				
Seeded	97	95	96	98
Emerged	83	69	82	82
Corn				
Mature	98	95	95	94
Harvested	22	15	22	30
Sorghum				
Turning color	96	94	100	98
Mature	60	55	73	76
Harvested	15	10	18	27
Sunflowers				
Harvested	45	30	37	31
Alfalfa				
3 rd cutting	97	95	97	96
4 th cutting	43	38	48	51
Dry Beans				
Cut	95	93	98	98
Harvested	77	75	82	87
Fall Potatoes				
Harvested	93	74	79	90
Summer Potatoes				
Harvested	91	89	93	96
Sugarbeets				
Harvest	29	17	21	26
Dry Onions				
Harvest	97	95	90	92

COLORADO CROP CONDITION RATINGS ^{1/}

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Sunflower	3	16	31	42	8
Alfalfa hay	5	17	33	38	7
Sugarbeets	4	9	24	47	16

^{1/} Crop condition ratings pertain to emerged plants early in the growing season through plants remaining to be harvested late in the season.

USDA NASS
Colorado Field Office

Colorado State University
Cooperative Extension Service

Colorado Department
of Agriculture